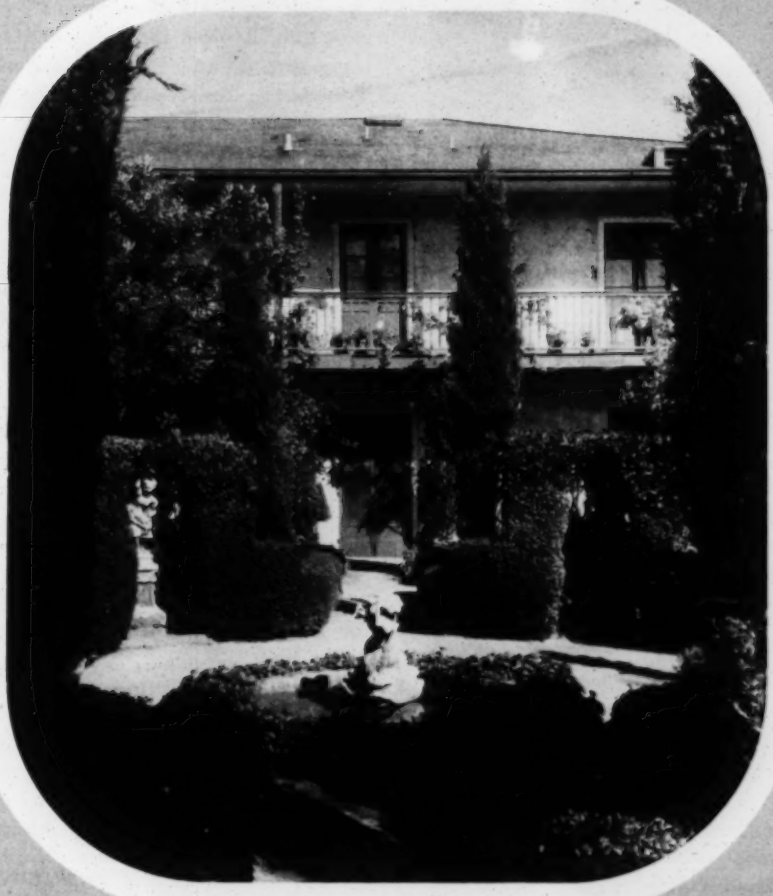
Historic Preservation



QUARTERLY OF THE NATIONAL TRUST
FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Vol. VI, No. 3 *Fall 1954*

TRUST ACCEPTS MONTEREY ADOBE

Casa Amesti, an historic adobe, was accepted by the Trust to be maintained as an example of early California architecture, the National Trust announced at the business session held in Chicago, Oct. 29, during the annual meeting.

The historic house at 516 Polk St., Monterey, Calif., was left to the Trust in the will of the late Mrs. Frances Adler Elkins, well-known interior decorator and art collector, who owned it and used it as her residence for 35 years. Built about 1824, the house is considered an outstanding example of the Monterey style of architecture. The formal gardens adjoining the house are enclosed in a high adobe wall planted with a hedge of clipped yew, and filled with trees, topiary shrubs, a fountain and statues. In addition to bequeathing *Casa Amesti* and its furnishings, Mrs. Elkins devised an adjacent lot and building in order to provide part of the cost of maintenance and of opening *Casa Amesti* to the public at some future date to be announced.

Mrs. Elkins, one of the pioneers in the movement for preserving the early architecture of Monterey, aided many preservation movements and presented a small park to the city.

In her will she provided that her extensive library of works on painting, fine arts, furniture and interior decoration, as well as the architectural library bequeathed to her by her brother, David Elkins, A.I.A., noted architect of Chicago, should be presented to the city library. The De Young Museum in San Francisco was given a famous collection of porcelains and some modern paintings and drawings. The remainder of the art collections together with the notable furniture collected throughout Mrs. Elkins' lifetime was bequeathed with the house.

Casa Amesti will be the first building owned by the Trust on the West Coast, one of few actually owned anywhere in the country. It now administers *Woodlawn Plantation,* Mount Vernon, Va., and has agreed to accept Decatur House on Lafayette Square, Washington, D.C., with an endowment for its permanent preservation from Mrs. Truxtun Beale. It has accepted a gift from Mrs. Edith Bolling Wilson of the house (and contents) on S Street in the capital where Woodrow Wilson retired after his presidency and where he died.

Casa Amesti was built by Don Jose Amesti for himself and his bride, Prudenciana Vallejo, shortly after their marriage in 1824. He was a Spanish Basque who became a Mexican citizen and served as *juriz* and *alcalde* in Monterey. In 1848 the house was given to Amesti's daughter Carmen, when she married Don Santiago McKinley. Monterey served as the capital of California under the flags of Spain, Mexico and the United States. A number of its historic buildings have been preserved by the federal government, the state of California, the city and private individuals, include the Old Custom House, the First Theatre, Stevenson House, Viscanio-Serra Landing Place, Colton Hall and Larkin House.

EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING

On October 29-30, 140 members of the National Trust met in Chicago for the eighth annual meeting of the organization, the first west of the Alleghanies. The evening preceding the meeting, a meeting of the Board of Trustees attended by nine members was held.

Five trustees re-elected for a five year term were John Nicholas Brown, Harry A. Bullis, Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield, Gen. U. S. Grant, 3rd, and H. Alexander Smith, Jr. The Board elected Mrs. Woodrow Wilson an honorary member, and voted to accept the bequest of Mrs. Frances Adler Elkins of *Casa Amesti* in Monterey, Calif. Comdr. Keith Merrill (Chairman), Mrs. C. Phillip Miller and Mrs. Hermann G. Place were named as the 1955 nominating committee. The invitation extended by the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities, the governor of the state, and the mayor of the city of Nashville to hold the next annual meeting there was unanimously accepted.

The report of David E. Finley, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, presented at the opening business session has been printed and is being distributed to all members and member organizations. At the annual dinner held at the Casino Club, the Earl of Wemyss and March, Chairman of the Council of the National Trust for Scotland, gave an illustrated address on the work being done by that organization to preserve places of historic and architectural interest and natural beauty in Scotland.

In addition to the program of entertainment and the preservation forum held in Chicago, a group of more than twenty made the overnight trip to Galena, Ill. Miss Virginia R. Carroll was chairman, and was assisted by the Guild of the First Presbyterian Church, the Galena Historical Society, the Galena Woman's Club and the Chamber of Commerce. Entertainment included a community dinner, an evening program, a tour of Galena's historic houses in buses supplied by the Chamber of Commerce, and a reception in the Galena Historical Museum.

Walled formal garden of *Casa Amesti*, Monterey, Calif. *Julian P. Graham.*

SHORT COURSE AT COOPERSTOWN

Under the joint sponsorship of the National Trust and the New York State Historical Association a short course in preservation methods and techniques will be held the week of September 18 at Cooperstown, N.Y. It is designed for those who are active in the operation of historic sites and buildings, either as curators, or as directors of preservation societies which formulate the policies for properties under their jurisdiction.

A faculty of experts in various fields recruited from the staffs and membership of the two organizations will offer a series of morning and afternoon lectures and laboratory periods organized around the interests and problems which those attending may nominate. There will be two morning sessions from 9:30 to 10:30 and from 10:45 to 11:45 and a choice of courses from 2 to 3 each afternoon, with lectures and entertainment planned for the evenings.

A morning series on Master Planning will include advice on selection of properties for restoration, acquisition of properties and adequate protection of the abutting area, legal problems, gifts and loans, concepts of use (the community center *vs.* the velvet rope) and research. The other morning series will deal with public relations and financing, including community participation, use of volunteers, sales programs, state and civic support, foundations, and publications. A "first aid" course in the afternoon will deal with do and do nots in the care of museum materials; and the alternate course with education and interpretation.

Each faculty member will hold individual consultation periods every afternoon to which enrollees may present special problems of their own particular projects. For example, promotional literature will be analyzed or a special research program outlined by a specialist in that field.

Literature and application blanks will be sent to members of both organizations after the faculty has been selected and preliminary details arranged. Members may nominate qualified or interested persons who will be given an opportunity to enroll if the course is not oversubscribed by members.

The total cost of the course will be from $110 to $125 (depending upon accommodations). It will include tuition, room at Otesaga Hotel on the shore of Lake Otsego, meals and entertainment. Other costs have been met by donations for the purpose, to the two sponsoring organizations.

NEW MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Historic St. Luke's Restoration; Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities (Knoxville Chapter); Mason County Historical Society (Ky.); Nantucket Historical Association (Mass.); New Harmony Foundation (Ind.); Fort Loudon Association (Tenn.).

Village Crossroads, Farmer's Museum, Cooperstown, N.Y.
Le Bel for N.Y. State Historical Association

In addition, gifts and contributions to the program of the National Trust have been received from Hotel De Soto, Galena, Ill.; Century Club of San Francisco; Woman's Club of Loudon County, Va.; and the Ohio Chapter of the American Institute of Decorators presented a percentage of the proceeds of its historic house tour.

WOODLAWN PLANTATION

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother paid a surprise visit to *Woodlawn Plantation* and *Gunston Hall* on Sunday afternoon Nov. 8, during her stay in this country. She was received by Mrs. Arthur Woods, chairman of the Woodlawn Committee of the National Trust, and staff members. Among the new acquisitions which interested the Queen Mother was a painted Sheraton chair once owned by Nelly Custis, and probably one inherited by her from *Mount Vernon*. The needlework pad on the chair closely resembles other examples of her work at the mansion.

From the collection of early fabrics donated by Colonel and Mrs. Edgar W. Garbisch, a piece of French 19th-century hand-blocked linen has been reproduced by Bailey and Griffin of New York. It has been printed in the original brick color in a striped pattern bearing a floral design, and will be known as "Woodlawn." The manufacturers have presented sufficient material for window curtains for one of the bedrooms, and Woodward & Lothrop of Washington, D.C. are donating their services to make them.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
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TWO IF BY SEA

How heartwarming was the response of Americans everywhere to the loss of the historic steeple of Old North Church in Boston in hurricane Carol! The dramatic impact of the photograph made by Joseph Spallino of New York, of the steeple toppling at the height of the storm and wired throughout the country by *Associated Press*, evoked an immediate response. Before the tragic rubble of clock, steeple and weathervane could be salvaged or cleared away, the spontaneous outpouring of an aroused and deeply-touched America began to pour in.

There were three major campaigns under way at once (now happily merged as one). Offers of copper sheathing came from the Revere Copper Company, which had given the sheathing for the tower designed in 1806 by the great Charles Bullfinch, to replace the one swept down by an 1804 hurricane. That hurricane, as did those of 1938 and 1944, had spared the historic belfry of 1723 where the famous signal lanterns had been placed by the sexton to warn Paul Revere of the British attack.

Ciragas Der Garabedian, a woodcarver, offered his services to replace the delicate ornamentation of the steeple. Charles Strickland, A.I.A., a Trust member, is preparing drawings for a reconstruction. School children and communities began to send in their contribution to Post Office Box 1776 in Boston (still very much in business). Everywhere the sense of loss moved Americans to respond.

As the Seattle *Post-Intelligencer* said, "What's our American heritage worth in dollars and cents?

"Of course you can't measure a priceless thing like that in terms of money.

"But you can count in money the cost of restoring one of America's proudest symbols of our heritage . . . Patriots vowed that the steeple would be rebuilt. It will take between $150,000 and $200,000 to do the job."

That is indeed a far vaster sum than that requested by the Lantern League, a Trust member organization, which for years has pleaded with the American people that their cherished landmark was in great danger. Not from such spectacular terrifying forces of nature as hurricanes, but from the equally potent, but insidious forces of decay and disintegration.

The beautiful steeple that might have been saved is gone. With great and sustained effort, and at vaster cost, it can be replaced. We at the Trust sincerely hope so.

The lesson is obvious—not only must we who value our American heritage of historical and architectural monuments of our country's past replace them when they are lost in a major catastrophe. We must save them by continued and persistent effort while we may. "It is better to preserve, than repair—it is better to repair than restore—and better to restore than reconstruct" should be our watchword. Eternal vigilance, as Thomas Jefferson warned, is the price of liberty. It is also the price of preservation.—H. D. B.

SUPREME COURT OPINION

In a sweeping opinion, the Supreme Court on November 22 upheld the constitutionality of the Redevelopment Act under which the Area B project in Southwest Washington, D.C. is now in progress. The far-reaching opinion was delivered by Associate Justice William O. Douglas, with his seven colleagues concurring.

This decision is the first given on the subject, for, although a number of appeals for review of state cases have been made, none has been argued. Approximately 20 states have ruled redevelopment legislation as valid. Georgia passed a constitutional amendment for the purpose, but Florida courts have ruled legislation in their state invalid.

The high court's opinion differed from that of the District Court which held the Act legal, but narrowed its application strictly to slum clearance. The Douglas opinion held that the act did not violate the due process of law clause in the Fifth Amendment or the provision against taking private property for public use without just compensation, as the complainants had argued.

In ruling that Congress and the states had wide powers in redeveloping slum areas the opinion said:

"We do not sit to determine whether a particular housing project is or is not desirable. The concept of the public welfare is broad and inclusive.

"The values it represents are spiritual as well as physical, aesthetic as well as monetary. It is within the power of the legislature to determine that the community should be beautiful as well as healthy, spacious as well as clean, well-balanced as well as carefully patrolled."

The decision is a particuarly heartening one to those working with redevelopment programs in early cities, who are hoping to find through this agency a means of preserving some of their more significant architectural and historical landmarks as parts of the larger program. —H. D. B.

DECATUR HOUSE BOOK

Decatur House and its Inhabitants by Marie Beale, Washington, D.C. Privately printed, 1954. (156 p. inc. index and bibl., end papers reproduced from original drawings by Benjamin H. Latrobe, profusely illustrated with reproductions of old prints, portraits and photographs.)

In the foreword to this volume, David E. Finley, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, writes:

"At a reception given at Decatur House on May 1, 1953, for the Trustees of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Mrs. Truxtun Beale announced her intention to bequeath to the Trust the house, with many of its contents, together with an endowment for its preservation as a national monument. By this far-sighted and generous act, Mrs. Beale has assured the future of this important building which is noted not only for its historical associations but also as a fine example of American architecture of the early Federal period.

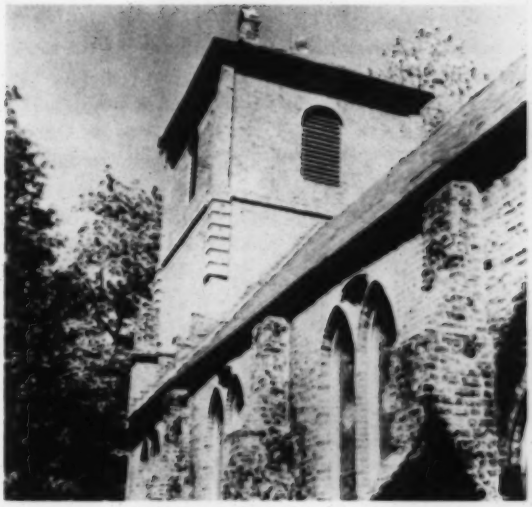
". . . Now Mrs. Beale has added still further to the value of her gift by writing, out of her own knowledge and from sources available to her, this interesting account of Decatur House and its occupants. She gives a vivid picture of social and political events that have taken place in the house, beginning with Stephen Decatur's opening ball in the great double drawing room, and continuing through the occupancy of many notable personages, including a Russian Minister, and lastly during the ownership of General Edward Beale and his son, the late Truxtun Beale and his wife, the present owner of Decatur House who has added lustre to the long and brilliant tradition of the mansion as a center of social and political life in Washington.

"It is important that the facts, as set forth in this volume, should be available to the Trust and to the public who will eventually have access to this historic house. We are grateful to Mrs. Beale for having given us this book in addition to her other great benefactions."

Mrs. Beale is presenting copies of the book to the Trust for sale at headquarters, the proceeds to be devoted to the program of the organization. They will be available there at $4.50 a copy or at $4.75 postpaid upon request.

PROPOSED PRESERVATION

Springfield, Ill. The second floor of Abraham Lincoln's Home on the corner of 8th and Jackson Streets, maintained as a memorial by the State of Illinois, has been undergoing extensive renovation and restoration in preparation for the birthday celebration on Feb. 12, 1955. The Colonial Dames of America in Illinois are donating furnishings for upstairs rooms which have not been open to the public in the past. They are cooperating with the Division of Parks and Memorials in the project.



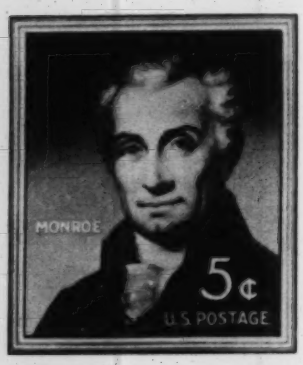
Crumbling Buttresses of St. Luke's Church near Smithfield, Va

Smithfield, Va. St. Luke's Church in Isle of Wight County, Va., the nation's oldest church is being restored under the sponsorship of Historic St. Luke's Restoration, a Trust member. Erected in 1632, only a few brief years after the first settlement at Jamestown in 1607 its buttressed walls and traceried windows were in immediate danger of disintegration before they were stabilized as a first step toward their final restoration. Hugh Morrison calls St. Luke's "the most convincingly Gothic church of the Colonial period, its every detail speaking of the small parish churches of the late medieval period in England." President of the organization is Henry Mason Day, and Dr. Arthur Pierce Middleton, George Carrington Mason, Dr. Fiske Kimball and Neil Morgan serve as the Restoration Committee.

Waterville, Me. With the removal of Colby College (founded 1820) to a site outside of the downtown area, the old buildings of the college have been gradually sold and parking lots and modern buildings taken their place. Among them is Memorial Hall (1869) the first building erected to commemorate those who lost their lives in the Civil War. It has been used in recent years as a storage warehouse, but is now for sale and friends of the college, and those anxious to preserve a monumental building on the square facing the railroad station are trying to raise a fund to insure its preservation. Among those active in the movement is Charles P. Swan, who also advocated saving the old "Dartmoor Prison" railroad station in Salem, Mass.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

To commemorate the 131st anniversary of the enunciation of the Monroe Doctrine, the James Monroe Memorial Foundation and the city of Fredericksburg held a celebration on Dec. 2. A 5-cent commemorative postage stamp was issued through the Fredericksburg postoffice. Dr. José A. Mora, ambassador of Uruguay, and president of the Organization of American States, gave the principal address in front of the original building erected in 1758, in which young James Monroe began the practice of law in the 1780's. A lunch for distinguished guests, a parade and ceremonies included presentation of bound albums of the new stamp, and release of carrier pigeons bearing first-day covers in advance of the mails. The likeness of James Monroe on the new stamp was copied from the Rembrandt Peale portrait painted while he was president, which is part of the permanent exhibit in the law office museum.



Old Sturbridge Village has opened a 158-year-old meetinghouse in the museum village in Massachusetts assembled from New England to form an eighteenth century farming community where visitors may see how their ancestors lived, worked and worshipped. The meetinghouse, built in 1796 in Bolton, Mass. was moved thirty miles to the green in Old Sturbridge Village and reassembled. It was the gift of Bolton Friends Meeting and New England Friends who contributed to the cost of moving and restoring it. It was rededicated at a service attended by Quakers from New England and other parts of the United States.

The Woodrow Wilson Centennial Commission held a planning conference Dec. 3 at the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace in Staunton, Va.

The Winterthur Fellows, graduate students in the Program of Early American Culture sponsored by the Henry Francis Du Pont Winterthur Museum are now engaged in preparation of Masters theses for the University of Delaware. The four current projects include a study of John Potts (1710-1768) Pennsylvania ironmaster, merchant and founder of Pottstown; John Lewis Krimmel (1787-1821) genre painter working in Philadelphia 1810-20; Jonathan Gostelowe (1744-1795) Philadelphia cabinetmaker; and the Dependence of the Philadelphia Cabinetmaker upon English Design, 1760-1780.

Christ Church on 631 G Street, S.E. in Washington, D.C. was rededicated on Thanksgiving Day following extensive renovation of the old structure erected by Benjamin H. Latrobe in 1807. The Right Reverend Angus Dunn, Bishop of Washington, gave the dedicatory sermon, and Horace W. Peaslee, A.I.A., who was architect of the project, served as lay reader. On Sunday the congregation attended the first Sunday service in the restored church. Mary Annette, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Scheltema was christened by the Rev. Ivan E. Merrick, Jr., rector.

Urbanna, Va. Efforts are now being made to uncover historical data on the old brick tobacco warehouse in this town the erection of which was authorized by the Virginia Council in 1680. The oldest surviving warehouse, it is also believed to be the first tobacco warehouse in America. It was purchased in 1939 by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (a member organization) to prevent its removal to New York for the World's Fair. Brig. Gen. R. L. Montague, U.S.M.C. (ret.) at the Custom House in Urbanna is collecting the historical data.

FOURTH ENGLISH TRUST SCHOOL

A concentrated study of English Country Houses is being offered July 8-30, 1955 by the English National Trust, in cooperation with Attingham Park, the Shropshire Adult College and the York Institute of Architectural Study. The course will admit 35 persons of all ages, mostly Americans, with some places reserved for students from Europe and the Commonwealth. The inclusive charge of $200.00 covers accomodations, meals, tuition, entrance fees to houses, and other incidental charges.

Lectures by academic teachers of note on English domestic architecture, social history and interior decoration will be supplemented by trips to important historic buildings. For the first 10 days the school is in residence at Attingham Park, near Shrewsbury. It will move by coach to Derbyshire July 18, where residence will be in comfortable hotels. York will serve as school quarters July 21-28.

American applications should be addressed to Frederick L. Rath, Jr., Director, 712 Jackson Place, Washington 6, D.C., with a note of qualifications and special interests; other applications to J. F. Rowley; Deputy Director, The National Trust, 42 Queen Annes Gate, London S.W., 1. Final selection of applicants will be made by the Directors of the School.

Further details about the 1955 program of the York Institute of Architectural Study, which offers professional courses on the protection and repair of old buildings, may be obtained from J. P. West-Taylor, The Secretary, The York Institute of Architectural Study, St. Anthony's Hall, York.

DESTRUCTION

Roxbury, Mass. Hurricane Carol so damaged the steeple of the First Parish Church in Roxbury that building inspectors have condemned it. After 150 years, the weathervane, golden dome and octagonal cupolas must be torn down, because the small Unitarian congregation which still loyally supports the church in a neighborhood that is no longer residential, cannot afford the $35,000 estimated cost of preserving them.

Tuscaloosa, Ala. The Tuscaloosa *News* reports "A Heap of History comes down for a Parking Lot Here." The century-old Marlowe house, residence of a governor and a fiery reconstruction period editor, was a handsome Greek revival structure. The site will provide parking space for a nearby super market.

Sharon, Conn. Another of the "last resorts," 165-year-old Sharon Inn served its last buffet supper. Following the supper there was an auction of its old furnishings and razing operations began the next day.

Gary, Ind. Parking space for eighty cars will replace the town's first city hall.

Peekskill, N.Y. Vandals invaded the restored colonial building that once served as Congressman William Nelson's law office. Windows and glass doors of bookcases were smashed, valuable law books torn and strewn on the floor with other wreckage. The Friendly Town Association is now raising funds for a second restoration.

San Pablo, Calif. Castro Adobe, located in the center of the city, was destroyed despite a last minute effort of the Contra Costa Historical Society to save it. District Attorney Francis Collins was routed out of bed at 5 a.m. by the historians who wanted a court order to stop the demolition. The owner of the historic building said the offer of the group was just five years and one day too late. For five years a $5,000 appropriation from the State Historical Landmarks Committee had been available to purchase and restore the adobe, contingent upon a matching sum from local or county groups. It was built in the 1830's by Don Francisco Castro on a tract of land granted him by Spain. After his death it became the residence of his son-in-law, Don Juan Bautista Alvarado, first governor of California under Mexican rule, who moved there in 1849 after completing his official duties in the capital in Monterey. He died there in 1882.

Raleigh, N.C. Bulldozers moved in among the magnolias and spacious gardens around the last of the city's oldest dwellings, Heartt House (1830-40). It was built by Dabney Cosby, an architect from Augusta County, Va., who built many fine houses in North Carolina. At the time of its sale, it was still occupied by descendants of the original owner. Three other old adjoining residences were also razed, and the land is to be used for a filling station, parking lot and office building.

Portland, Me. By a vote of 10 to 1 a citizens' committee recommended that the house on Fore St. where the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was born, be razed and that the Portland Historical Society erect a suitable monument and plaque on the site. The colonial house has been decaying for many years and unvisited except by vandals. A nearby manufacturing plant wants the site for industrial use. The poet was born here during a brief stay of his family with his mother's sister. The Longfellow House on Congress St., maintained as a museum by the Maine Historical Society, and the poet's home, Craigie house on Brattle St., Cambridge, Mass., contain most of the portraits, library and memorabilia making an authentic refurnishing of the house impossible, even if funds were raised for restoration of the delapidated property, according to the report.

Easton, Md. Mrs. Gordon Fisher, Jr., a concerned Trust member reports that the 114-year-old Villa in Talbot County is scheduled for demolition. A supper was held in the old mansion before its handsome furnishings were dispersed, attended by Maryland residents, including the governor and his lady, at which Col. Harrison Tilghman told the dramatic story of the mansion's hospitable years. Mrs. Fisher has advised the Trust that handsome building materials are available which have been salvaged including some of the early lighting fixtures, stained glass windows, and marble mantels. Preservation projects or individuals interested in acquiring them may address inquiries to Mrs. Anne Lockhart, Easton, Md.

Rowlesburg, W. Va. Fire destroyed a pioneer two-story log house which was a relic of the old stagecoach era. The blaze started in a defective chimney.

Boston, Mass. The Old Howard theatre in Scollay Square is one of five buildings being razed to construct a municipal garage. One of the country's most famous burlesque houses, it was attended by generations of Harvard students in the Shakespearean courses of George Lyman Kittredge, the noted "Kitty," who insisted that the humor of the pit had never changed in its essentials, and should be seen to gain a real appreciation of Shakespeare. The theatre had been closed in late years by order of a judge, who, lacking the Shakespearian approach to the subject, pronounced the shows "too dirty."

Bar Harbor, Maine Wingwood House, the 80-room Stotesbury mansion overlooking Frenchman's Bay, has been razed to provide terminal facilities for the new Sydney, N.S.-Bar Harbor ferry. The town acquired the property for $10,000 and wrote off $5,000 in back taxes. There were 26 handcarved marble fireplaces imported from France and England, 28 bathrooms, one with a gold bath and fixtures, 52 telephones and a 38-room servants' wing to be demolished.

Artists' receptions at the Tenth Street Studios, Jan. 1869. Pictures of the following artists in their respective studios: 1. Regis Gignou 2. M.F.H. De Haas 3. William J. Hays 4. Martin J. Head 5. James M. Hart 6. Seymour J. Guy 7. William Bradford.

Museum of the City of New York

IN DANGER

New York, N. Y. Among the buildings recommended for preservation by the Municipal Art Society, the New York Chapter of the A.I.A. and the Society of Architectural Historians (Trust members) is the famous old Studio Building at 51 West 10th Street erected in 1856 from plans by Richard Morris Hunt. A modern 10-story apartment and penthouse has been scheduled for the site. The building was erected by James B. Johnston, a patron of the arts, and has housed such famous artists as Winslow Homer, John LaFarge, Homer Martin, Alexander Calder, Emanuel Leutze, Kahlil Gibran and Augustus St. Gaudens. It is still occupied by a group of artists who are trying to find a purchaser who will save it from demolition and leave it as a self-sustaining memorial to American art.

Nashville, Tenn The congregation of the First Presbyterian Church in Nashville has voted to move to Oak Hill and sell its property. Designed in 1848 by William Strickland, architect of Tennessee's famous state capitol, the Egyptian Revival structure is considered one of the nationally significant architectural monuments in the state. There is an active movement to insure preservation of the church and a bill has been introduced in the legislature to enable the state to take it over.

Hillsboro, Ohio. The home of Ohio's Governor Allen Trimble, built in 1819, was sold at auction in September. Its notable collection of antique furniture was also auctioned and the future of the house is uncertain. In its early years, Eliza Trimble Thompson, the governor's daughter, held meetings there that led to the formation of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Princeton, N. J. Joseph E. McLean, Commissioner of the State of New Jersey of the Department of Conservation and Development, in response to a National Trust inquiry on the future of *Morven* reported that he hopes that since recent publicity in the press that the state "will be in a better position to safeguard this vauable property." *Morven*, the handsome, historic home of the Stockton family (1701), occupied by many notable figures in American history, including Richard H. Stockton, signer of the Declaration of Independence, was presented to the state by its owner, the Hon. Walter E. Edge for use as a governor's mansion. Because of the estimated cost of $200,000 of renovating it as an executive mansion, the Commissioner had suggested building a modern house on another site, and meeting its commitment to the donor of preserving the house, perhaps as a museum. *A House called Morven; its role in American History*, 1701-1954 by Alfred Hoyt Bill has just been published by Princeton University Press; a documented, illustrated, historical and architectural acount of the house.

Louisville, Ky. Proposals of the Army Corps of Engineers to open a 7-acre tract to commercial exploitation on land originally set aside for a national monument at historic Boonesboro are meeting with intense opposition from local historical societies. Led by Cassius M. Clay, of the Pioneer National Monument Association and a state representative, the Kentuckians oppose as an "inexcusable giveaway" the proposal to sell off the site of the last battle where the Revolution was fought and other history of the state and northwest territory was made. Sale is scheduled for Jan. 2, if appeals to the Secretary of the Interior fail.